

You Do Make a Difference!

The DNR Fire Department Advisory Council is a group of people from Wisconsin's fire service community appointed by the DNR to offer grassroots guidance to the Division of Forestry on the direction and structure of its forest fire protection organization, operations, and grant programs. The Co-Chair of the Council is the DNR Cooperative Forest Fire Specialist who is also a member of a volunteer fire department. As council members they:

- **Advise** the Department on funding issues for the grant programs.
- **Recommend** ranking and scoring guidelines for Department fire suppression grants.
- **Meet** with appropriate legislative committees about funding issues for fire suppression grant programs:
- **Evaluate** the effectiveness of DNR fire suppression grant programs by working with region and bureau staff.
- **Work with DNR** staff to develop policy and guidance for the DNR fire suppression grant programs.

You can make a difference by voicing your ideas and concerns to:

DNR Fire Department Advisory Council Co-Chair

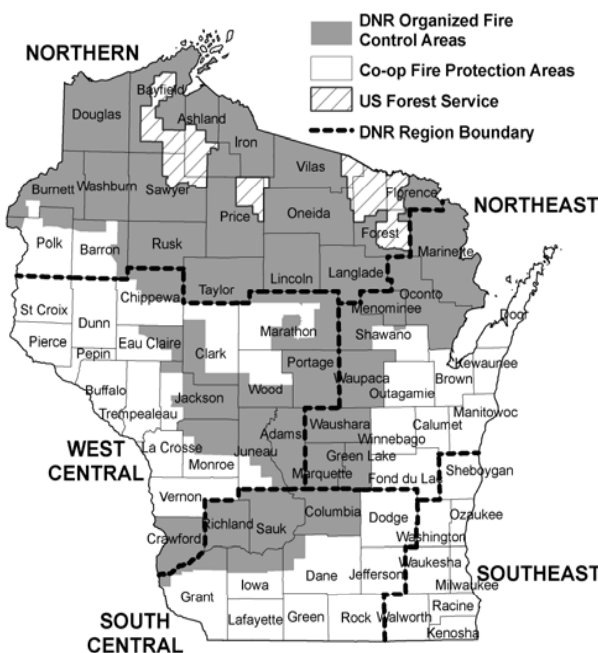
Tim Houslet, Chief, Oxford Fire Dept
thouslet@co.marquette.wi.us

DNR Fire Department Advisory Council Liaison & Co-Chair

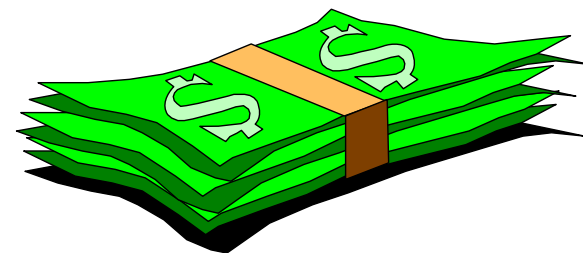
Christopher Klahn
Cooperative Forest Fire Specialist
Christopher.Klahn@dnr.state.wi.us

Fire Department Wildland Training for Cooperative Areas ~ New & Free

Instructors are now available to teach an 8-hour DNR course, "Introduction to Wildland Fire Suppression for Wisconsin Fire Departments". This course, funded by the DNR Division of Forestry, is designed to offer firefighters the information they need to safely suppress wildland fires in Wisconsin. A broader range of wildland fire topics is also available as requested by fire departments to meet their needs and time constraints. Interested departments should contact Chris Klahn, DNR's Cooperative Forest Fire Specialist.



Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grants



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to: Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240

This publication is available in alternate formats (large print, Braille, audio tape, etc.) upon request. Please call (608) 266-7555 for more information.



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What is the Volunteer Fire Assistance grant program?

The Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant program was authorized in the federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978. (This grant program was known formerly both as Title IV and Rural Community Fire Protection Grants.)

The VFA program is a competitive 50/50 cost share program. This means that the grantee must use its own resources to fund the entire cost of the project. Upon project completion and Department approval, the grantee requests reimbursement for 50 percent of the total eligible project costs up to the amount of the grant award.

Who can apply?

County/area fire associations in the state of Wisconsin can apply for VFA grants. Priority will be given to county fire associations in the cooperative protection areas of the state. Only one application will be accepted per county.

An **individual fire department is not eligible** to apply unless it is initially organizing. An individual fire department cannot receive money from more than one county fire association VFA grant.

What is the VFA application deadline?

July 1 is the **postmark deadline date** to submit an application. Application information is mailed to county associations statewide in April. The application packet is also available on the DNR website:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/lr/vfa/grants.html>

What can a county fire association buy with VFA grant funds?

The VFA program emphasizes projects that **impact a majority of association members**. Priority will be given to those organizations who take a county/area-wide approach in partnering to develop and carry out projects that affect a majority of their membership. The VFA program provides grant funding for projects in the following categories, listed in priority order:

- Forest Fire Fighter Safety (structural gear is no longer a component of this program)
- Forest fire training
- Forest fire prevention/Wildland Urban Interface
- Dry hydrants/Water Resources
- Rural Fire Mapping & Related
- Communication equipment for forest fire suppression or protection
- Forest fire suppression tools, equipment, supplies and materials
- Organization—new Fire Dept start-up efforts only

Maximum grant award: \$10,000 – To receive the maximum grant award, a project must have at least \$20,000 in eligible project costs.

Minimum grant award: \$1,500 – To receive the minimum grant award, a project must have at least \$3,000 in eligible project costs.

What types of projects have been funded in the past?

Examples of successful applications from last year's VFA program include:

- County-wide firefighter accountability systems for use on all firegrounds
- Wildland training software for county-wide use
- County fire safety house with wildland urban interface considerations
- County dry hydrant plan and installation for water points
- County-wide structure location mapping projects in high hazard fuels
- County fire repeater replacement and enhancement
- Installation and programming fees for new county radio frequency plan

Who can I contact for more information about the VFA Program?

Eileen Trainor, VFA Grant Manager

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